



AI Publishes Report on Northern Ireland

On 13 June, *AI* published the report of its mission to Northern Ireland late last year to investigate in detail allegations of police ill-treatment of persons detained on suspicion of involvement in or knowledge of terrorist offences.

The *AI* mission, consisting of a Dutch lawyer, two doctors from Denmark and a member of the organization's research staff, spent ten days in Northern Ireland in November-December 1977. The delegates met government, police and judicial officials. They examined allegations of ill-treatment of 78 persons, detained for up to seven days under emergency legislation, most of them during 1977. The delegates obtained direct testimony from 52 persons. They obtained medical reports relating to 13 of these cases, and five of the 52 individuals were examined in detail by the medical members of the delegation. The delegates also examined medical reports relating to the cases of a further 26 persons.

Most of the allegations studied by *AI*'s delegates were of beatings to the body and extremities, beatings to the head, psychologically and/or physically exhausting procedures (such as prolonged and oppressive questioning, being made to do physical exercises or wall-standing for prolonged periods), threats and humiliation.

On the basis of the information available to it, *AI* concluded that maltreatment of suspected terrorists by the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) had taken place with sufficient frequency to warrant the establishment of a public inquiry to investigate it. The evidence presented to the mission did not suggest that uniformed members of the RUC were involved in the alleged maltreatment.

In particular, the report expresses concern about changes in the rules relating to the admissibility of statements in trials of persons charged with terrorist offences, which allow for confessions to be ruled admissible evidence where, under normal law, they would have been excluded. The report notes that a large proportion of persons convicted of terrorist offences in the special (Diplock) non-jury courts are convicted solely on the basis of self-incriminating statements. The evidence also indicates that the machinery for investigating complaints against the police of assault during interview is not adequate.

The report also condemns in general the use of political murder and maiming by paramilitary groups in Northern Ireland.

On the basis of its conclusions *AI* recommended to the United Kingdom government that a public and impartial inquiry be established to investigate the allegations of maltreatment. It also suggested that the terms of reference of this inquiry should include consideration of the rules

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Human Rights Violations in Guinea

On 21 June, *AI* released an 11-page *Briefing on Guinea* which describes in detail the longstanding pattern of human rights violations in the country. Expressing concern at the widespread use of detention without trial in Guinea, *AI* urged President Ahmed Sékou TOURE to take immediate and effective action to improve the human rights situation.

AI estimates that there are between 2,000 and 4,000 political prisoners in Guinea, a country whose population is only some five million. Most of the prisoners are held in two main prison camps, Camp Boiro in the capital, Conakry, and the Kémé Boureima Camp at Kindia. Conditions of imprisonment are reported to be particularly harsh. Political prisoners are completely isolated from the outside world and are not allowed to receive visits or even letters from their families. Many prisoners have been detained without trial for seven years; others were sentenced to life imprisonment after arbitrary legal proceedings at which they were not allowed to be present.

AI also found that the death rate among political prisoners is particularly high and reports that more than 250 deaths occurred in one particular section of Camp Boiro alone between March and September 1974. Many prisoners are said to have been starved to death. In some cases it is not known whether individual prisoners are now alive or dead.

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REHABILITATION OF RIGHTISTS ANNOUNCED IN CHINA

The authorities of the People's Republic of China have decided to rehabilitate several thousand people who had been classified as "rightists" since 1957, according to recent news agency reports from Peking.

The decision, which was adopted by the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference—a national united front institution—was endorsed in April by the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party. It implies that the accusations made against people classified as "rightists" in the past, or the verdicts passed against them, will be reviewed. The Japanese news agency *Kyodo* reports that the measure will affect 100,000 people who were labelled as "rightists" after the brief liberalization movement of the "Hundred Flowers" in 1957. The people thus labelled were either dismissed from office or imprisoned or punished in other ways.

AI welcomed this decision in a letter to Vice-Premier DENG Xiaoping in May, requesting details on its implementation and raising individual cases of prisoners known to *AI*. This concerned in particular WANG Mingdao and LIN Xiling, arrested after the "Hundred Flowers" movement and said to be still imprisoned in the mid-1970s. Lin Xiling was a 20-year-old student at China People's University when she was labelled a "rightist" in 1957; she is reported to have been subsequently sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment with deprivation of civil rights for life. Wang Mingdao was a Protestant pastor from Peking who was arrested for the second time in 1957 and sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment; his sentence was later extended to life imprisonment.

MASS ARRESTS IN PERU

Constitutional guarantees were suspended and a state of emergency decreed in Peru on 20 May in response to widespread disturbances. The unrest followed austerity measures which doubled public transport fares and raised basic food prices by an estimated 80%.

These measures were introduced after government negotiators met a team from the International Monetary Fund in Lima to discuss credits to ameliorate Peru's severe financial crisis. Opposition spokesmen have protested that the conditions imposed by international financial bodies would seriously jeopardize the elections, scheduled for 18 June, and would lead directly to violations of human rights.

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relating to interrogation and detention, admissibility of statements, and the effectiveness of machinery for investigating complaints against the police of assault during interview. It further suggested that the inquiry should have access to all relevant data on individual cases of alleged maltreatment. Finally, AI recommended that, pending the establishment and reporting of such an inquiry, immediate steps be taken to ensure that suspects being interviewed by the RUC on suspicion of terrorism are protected against possible maltreatment. Measures to this end should include early access to lawyers.

The report was sent to the British government on 2 May.

- On 8 June the British government issued a public statement in response to AI's request for an impartial and public inquiry into the allegations of maltreatment. In this statement the government announced that, having examined AI's report, it had decided to establish an independent committee of inquiry into police practice and procedure in Northern Ireland relating to the interrogation of persons suspected of scheduled (terrorist) offences. The committee of inquiry would also be mandated to consider the effectiveness of the machinery for dealing with complaints against the police. The committee would not, however, review the rules regarding the admissibility of confessions in the special non-jury courts.

The government also said that individual allegations of maltreatment would not be investigated by a public inquiry. Instead, the government invited AI to give to the Northern Ireland Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) the names of the 78 persons whose allegations of maltreatment were described in AI's report. The DPP would then examine the complaints with a view to prosecuting identified police officers if the evidence justified it. The government stated that the DPP would additionally report on his "general findings and conclusions" of his examination of these cases, for the information of the government and of the committee of inquiry.

In a public statement on 13 June, AI regretted that the terms of reference of the government's committee of inquiry would exclude examination of individual complaints of maltreatment.

AI repeated its demand that a committee of inquiry be established which would have direct access to all relevant data regarding individual allegations of maltreatment, and that this should not be confined to the 78 cases in AI's report. In particular, AI said, the committee should have direct access to police doctors' reports and to the complaints files of the DPP, and should not be made to rely on a report of the general findings and conclusions of the DPP.

AI further proposed that provision should be made for members of the public to

testify in private before the committee.

AI said that "on the basis of the findings of this investigation" the committee should "review the rules relating to interrogation and detention, admissibility of statements in the courts and the effectiveness of existing machinery for investigating complaints against the police of assault during interrogation". The full report of the committee should be made public, AI said.

Report of an Amnesty International Mission to Northern Ireland (28 November–6 December 1977) is available from AI's national sections or from the International Secretariat.

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The briefing paper says that torture has become "an essential part of the machinery of repression" since Guinea's independence in 1958. It is used both as a means of general intimidation and in order to extract "confessions" from real or suspected opponents of the government and those who have been made "scapegoats" for the country's political and economic problems. Methods of torture include the use of electric shocks, severe beatings, burning with cigarettes, and partial suffocation.

AI said that its briefing was being published at a time when there was some improvement in human rights in Guinea. Recent reports suggested that a number of long-term political prisoners, including Roman Catholic Archbishop Raymond-Marie TCHIDIMBO (June Newsletter), were being released at a time when Guinea is increasingly sensitive to international criticism on human rights issues. However, it was clear that most of Guinea's political prisoners had not been freed—even Archbishop Tchidimbo's release has not been confirmed—and there were few signs that the government was yet ready to undertake the sort of fundamental reforms necessary to protect human rights.

Amnesty International Briefing on Guinea: 11 pages, is published in English by Amnesty International Publications, 10 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HF, England. Price: 40 pence (US \$1.00) plus postage. A French version is available from AI's francophone national sections (France, Belgium, Switzerland, Luxembourg and Canada).

Mass Arrests in Peru

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During the course of initial, nationwide disturbances and a general strike on 22 and 23 May, at least 38 people were shot dead by security forces. Over 3,000 persons, mostly trade unionists, were detained.

On 25 May, 67 political and trade union leaders were flown to the El Sepa penal colony in the Amazon jungle where they remain in total isolation. An official communiqué, issued by the Ministry of the Interior on 25 May, ordered the immediate expulsion of 17 political leaders, trade unionists and journalists. Four of those named remain in hiding. The 13 others were flown to Argentina where they were confined to military barracks in the town of

Jujuy. Most were subsequently granted asylum in other countries.

An AI mission to Peru between 6 and 14 April had met government officials, individuals and organizations to discuss human rights issues of concern in Peru, especially the periodic and indiscriminate mass arrests of trade unionists and political activists.

Attention was drawn to at least 1,800 arrests which followed demonstrations and a general strike in July 1977 in protest at transport and other price increases. According to military court officials these arrests led to less than five convictions although many detainees were held for six months or more.

The mission was led by Senator Hans RAU, a specialist in Latin American law who is a former Finance Minister and Deputy Mayor of Hamburg, Federal Republic of Germany. He was accompanied by a researcher from AI's International Secretariat.

Despite prior arrangements, no member of the Peruvian cabinet met the delegates and a meeting with the Minister of the Interior, which was scheduled for the last day of the mission, was cancelled.

The mission did, however, hold extensive talks with officials of the military courts on political prisoners and due process of law.

The mission observed a session of the court and examined trial documentation on cases of interest to AI.

They visited Lurigancho Prison, where 10 political prisoners were held at the time, and talked with the prison authorities. The delegates were informed, however, that a direct order from the Ministry of the Interior forbade any contact between the mission and the political prisoners.

The mission will prepare a report of its findings which will then be submitted to AI's International Executive Committee.

TRIAL OF HELSINKI MONITOR IN THE USSR

Yury ORLOV, chairman of the unofficial Helsinki monitoring group established in Moscow in mid-1976, was tried in Moscow from 15 to 18 May on charges of "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda". He was convicted and sentenced to the maximum term applicable, 7 years' strict regime imprisonment and 5 years in exile.

The trial was marked by numerous procedural and substantive irregularities. Friends of Mr Orlov were refused permission to attend the trial, which was officially described as "open", and only his wife and two sons were admitted to the courtroom. Mrs Orlov reported that she was not allowed to take notes during the trial and that she was subjected to a full body search on her way in and out of the courtroom. Early in the trial Mr Orlov submitted a list of witnesses whom he wanted called, but although some were waiting outside the courtroom the court rejected his request. Mr Orlov was not allowed to be defended by a lawyer of

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Prisoners of the Month Campaign

Participants in the campaign are reminded that appeals must only be sent to the officials named at the end of each case. In *no* circumstances should communications be sent to the prisoner. It is important for the prisoner that messages to the authorities are worded carefully and courteously and that they are never sectarian.

Dr Nicolae IGHISAN—Romania

Dr Nicolae IGHISAN, a 66-year-old doctor of medicine, is serving a long prison sentence for exercising his right to freedom of expression and for seeking to emigrate from Romania.

Dr Ighisan has been imprisoned for political reasons on several occasions. He was first sentenced to 8 years' imprisonment in 1941 for opposing the war-time Fascist regime of General Antonescu. He was then a member of the Peasant Party which did not advocate violence. He was released in 1944 at the end of Antonescu's rule.

In 1953, he was again arrested after producing leaflets alleging restrictions of political freedoms by the Romanian Communist Party since it had come to power in 1948. He was charged with being a member of the Fascist Iron Guard of General Antonescu (which, in fact, had been disbanded in 1944) and was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment. After serving 11 years he was released under a general amnesty which applied to 12,000 political prisoners in Romania. On his release in 1964, he suffered from ill health including a serious liver complaint.

In the late 1960s, Dr Ighisan and his friend Lae Iorgulescu, also a former member of the Peasant Party, applied for permission to leave Romania. On their applications they stated professional discrimination and harassment by the state security police as their reasons for wishing to leave Romania.

Permission was denied and in mid-1970 Dr Ighisan was arrested again. He was charged with "anti-state propaganda" and "illegal possession of foreign currency". The latter charge related to 25 US dollars and three gold coins found when the security police searched his apartment. The charge of "anti-state propaganda" related to Dr Ighisan's continued attempts to criticize his treatment by the Romanian security police.

His trial lasted less than two hours and was held *in camera*. He was sentenced to 15 years' strict imprisonment and is believed to be in prison either at Aiud or at Gherla. During 1977, Dr Ighisan was, according to official information, transported to the prison hospital and temporarily exempt from prison labour because of the seriousness of his liver complaint.

Please write courteously worded letters appealing for the release of Dr Nicolae Ighisan to: His Excellency Nicolae Ceausescu, Presedintele Republicii Socialistei Romania, Palatul Republicii, Bucuresti, Romania.

El Houcine El MANOUZI—Morocco

El Houcine El MANOUZI, aged 35, was born in Tafraout in Southern Morocco. In 1963, on completion of his studies in Casablanca, he went to work in Belgium as an airline mechanic. During his stay there, he helped to establish a commission for literacy and orientation for immigrant workers and was also active in the Moroccan Workers Union in Belgium.

He later worked in Libya for three years, returning to Morocco in 1969. He left the country again for Belgium in 1970, following widespread arrests of persons suspected of being critical of or opposed to the government. In 1971, he was sentenced to death *in absentia* at a major political trial in Marrakesh, after charges of plotting against the internal security of the state.

A year later, on a visit to Tunis, he was allegedly kidnapped and taken to Morocco where his fate was unknown until July 1975, when it was disclosed that he had escaped from detention. He was recaptured one week later.

In recent months it has been reported that El Houcine El Manouzi is being held in a villa at Dar El Mokri, near Rabat, one of many unofficial places of detention where prisoners are held incommunicado and may be tortured.

AI is deeply concerned that El Houcine El Manouzi was sentenced to death *in absentia*, apparently because of his political beliefs, and that, since his alleged abduction, he has had no access to a lawyer or to his family.

Please send courteously worded letters appealing for the immediate release of El Houcine El Manouzi to: Sa Majesté le Roi Hassan II, Rabat, Morocco, and to: Maître Maati Bouabid, Ministre de la Justice, Rabat, Morocco.

NGUGI wa Thiong'o—Kenya

NGUGI wa Thiong'o, the internationally known novelist and professor of literature, was arrested at his home in Limuru, Kenya, on 31 December 1977. His house was searched and books were seized. After he had been held incommunicado for nearly two weeks, the Kenyan government announced on 12 January that he had been detained six days earlier under Kenya's Preservation of Public Security Act.

Under this act, detained persons may be held indefinitely without trial. They have no opportunity to present a legal defence in court against any charge made against them,

and no court may challenge a detention order. Detention orders are reviewed every six months by a government-appointed tribunal, but its confidential recommendations to the government are not binding.

As far as is known, detainees rarely receive family visits, they are denied correspondence and writing materials, and have access to only a few books. Detainees' whereabouts are not made public. Those detained since Kenya became independent have been held for periods ranging between two and nine years. Other detainees include parliamentarians, but Professor Ngugi is the first academic to be detained in Kenya.

Ngugi wa Thiong'o was born in 1938. He studied at Leeds University in England and taught at Makerere University in Uganda and Northwestern University in Illinois, United States of America. At the time of his arrest he was Professor of Literature and Chairman of the Literature Department at Nairobi University in Kenya. His novels are widely read in Africa and are on most school and university literature examination syllabuses.

Professor Ngugi was presumably detained because of the opinions expressed in fictional form in his most recent book *Petals of Blood*, a novel published in 1977 (and launched by the Kenyan Minister of Economic Affairs), and a Kikuyu-language play, which recently had its performance license suddenly withdrawn. His marxist-oriented views on inequality and corruption in Kenya may have led to his arrest. Professor Ngugi has a wife and three children. The youngest was born after his arrest.

Please send courteously worded letters appealing for the immediate release of Ngugi wa Thiong'o, to: President Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, State House, PO Box 30501, Nairobi, Kenya.

NEWS OF PAST CAMPAIGNS

Former Iranian prisoner of conscience, Aziz YOUSEFI, (February 1975 *Prisoners of the month Campaign*) who was released from prison in March 1977 after serving 19 years of a sentence of life imprisonment, died of a heart attack in Teheran on 6 June.

He had been trying for some time to obtain a passport in order to travel to Europe for medical treatment.

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his own choice. When he tried to cross-examine prosecution witnesses he was repeatedly interrupted both by the judge and by members of the audience.

The charge "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" is used only to restrict exercise of freedom of expression, and is contrary to internationally-agreed human rights norms. In the Orlov trial, as in other cases known to *AI* involving charges of "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda", the offence as defined in law was not proved. Contrary to the law's requirements, the court found Mr Orlov guilty of "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" without establishing either that he had acted with intent to undermine the Soviet political system or that he had deliberately disseminated fabrications slandering the Soviet system. To have proved these aspects of the charge the court would have had to take testimony from witnesses on the defendant's behalf and examine in detail Mr Orlov's defence that the work of the Helsinki monitoring group consisted only of efforts to collect and publicize facts regarding the Soviet government's compliance and non-compliance with obligations which it had assumed by signing the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Reportedly the indictment against Mr Orlov specified that some of the materials circulated by the Helsinki monitoring group constituted "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda". In the absence of the text of the indictment and of any detailed transcript of the trial *AI* is unable to examine in detail the character of the prosecution's case on these points. However, as *AI* said in its latest annual report, the documents issued by the Helsinki monitoring group in Moscow and in other parts of the USSR have served as an authoritative source of information on subjects of concern to *AI*. The quality of information supplied by the Helsinki monitoring group and the group's stated intentions make it clearly inappropriate for the groups' documents to serve as grounds for a conviction for "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda".

In a statement the day after Mr Orlov's conviction *AI* condemned the verdict and the sentence. *AI* stated that in the period covered by the Helsinki groups' reporting at least 160 Soviet citizens were sentenced to terms of imprisonment, exile or banishment for exercise of their human rights and at least another 50 to 60 persons were confined to psychiatric hospitals for political reasons.

MASS ARRESTS OF JOURNALISTS IN PAKISTAN

In May over 140 journalists and other newspaper workers were arrested under martial law in Pakistan for criticizing government policies. The majority were swiftly tried and

sentenced by summary military courts to imprisonment for up to one year and fined. On 13 May, three were flogged in prison after sentencing.

According to an official announcement, a sentence of flogging imposed on a fourth journalist, Masudullah KHAN, a senior sub-editor of the *Pakistan Times* who is crippled in one leg, was withdrawn at the last minute because of his physical disability. To mark this year's 30th anniversary of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, *AI* launched an appeal on 19 May for the release of Mr Khan, who was also sentenced to 6 months' imprisonment and a fine, and all the other imprisoned journalists.

Most of the journalists were arrested for attempting to stage hunger strikes in protest against the government closure of the Urdu-language daily newspaper *Musawat* (Equality). *Musawat*, the official organ of the Pakistan People's Party, opposes the government and has criticized the trial of former prime minister Zulfikar Ali BHUTTO, convicted in March by the Lahore High Court of participation in the murder of a political opponent. The newspaper's Lahore edition was closed down by the government in March and its presses confiscated, following the arrest and conviction of its editors and printer on charges of printing objectionable material.

An agreement between the government and journalists' representatives on 29 May resulted in a government announcement that the journalists would be released and *Musawat's* Lahore edition allowed to resume printing. They have all now been released.

In its recently published report on Pakistan (June Newsletter), *AI* expressed its great concern at the practice of trying civilians, and political detainees in particular, before military courts which do not allow for appeal to a higher court. *AI* also recommended that the government immediately abolish the punishment of flogging and its infliction on political prisoners convicted of carrying out normal political activity, as in the journalists' case.

APPEAL FOR DETAINED TRADE UNIONISTS IN TUNISIA

On 1 June, Tunisia's Victory Day, *AI* adoption groups sent petitions to President Habib BOURGUIBA expressing grave concern at the situation of trade unionists and others detained after a one-day general strike on 26 January. Following this strike, several hundred people were arrested and over a hundred were killed in clashes with police and military forces.

Since the arrests, detainees have allegedly been held incommunicado for prolonged periods in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions. *AI* has received reports that a number of detainees were subjected to maltreatment and torture during their incarceration. Methods of torture reportedly include the so-called "swing" whereby the prisoner hangs upside down with his wrists

and ankles tied together and beating of sensitive parts of the body with wooden sticks or iron bars.

Among those arrested was the Secretary General of the General Union of Tunisian Workers (UGTT), Habib ACHOUR, who has since been charged with attempting to undermine the security of the state and is held at the civil prison of Tunis. Other detained trade unionists have been charged with participation in or incitement to strike.

AI's petition requested that those arrested be accorded their full legal rights and further requested that all prisoners of conscience in Tunisia, some of whom have been held since 1968, be granted an amnesty.

ELECTORAL COMMISSIONERS DETAINED IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

AI has received reliable reports from the Dominican Republic that officials of the electoral commissions supervising the Presidential election were arrested on 19 May. Political activists were also arrested. The arrests, which totalled more than 300, took place in the capital Santo Domingo and in various provinces and occurred in the middle of a controversial election for the presidency of the republic. The opposition candidate, Antonio GUZMAN, held a clear lead over the incumbent, President Joaquin BALANGUER. On 17 May the military intervened to stop the vote counting but it was subsequently resumed and the results confirmed a clear majority for Antonio Guzman.

AI said, on 23 May, that the arrests constituted a serious breach of human rights and called on the Dominican authorities to free the detainees.

TANZANIA: ABDULRAHMAN BABU FREED

On 26 April, Abdulrahman BABU (October 1977 *Prisoners of the Month Campaign*) and all 12 other Zanzibaris detained on the Tanzanian mainland since 1972 in connection with the assassination of Sheikh Abeid KARUME, were freed on President NYERERE's orders. An official statement said that they had been pardoned to mark the 14th anniversary of the union between Tanganyika and Zanzibar.

After his release, Mr Babu strongly denied any involvement in the assassination which, he said, was carried out for personal reasons of revenge by the assassins, who were killed immediately after the event. He looked forward to the early release of those prisoners serving sentences in Zanzibar for their alleged involvement in the same incident.

In a letter thanking *AI* members for campaigning on his behalf, Mr Babu wrote:

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Tanzania: Abdulrahman Babu Freed

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"Had it not been for their selfless work we would probably still be languishing in prisons... Your work has inspired me to resolve to devote a good deal of my future activities towards fighting for the cause of human rights".

He said that he had appealed to President KENYATTA to release all political prisoners in Kenya.

On 1 May, Vice-President Aboud JUMBE, Chairman of the Zanzibar Revolutionary Council, announced the release of 10 Zanzibar treason trial prisoners to mark Labour Day. All had been serving sentences of up to 15 years' imprisonment. Fourteen others, serving terms of 30 years or life imprisonment, had their sentences reduced to 10 years.

Following the release of Mr Babu and the Zanzibar prisoners, *AI* cabled President Nyerere and Vice-President Jumbe welcoming these humanitarian decisions.

FURTHER NUMBERS OF SAMIZDAT JOURNAL PUBLISHED

On 23 May, *AI* published, in English, seven issues of *A Chronicle of Current Events*, the *samizdat* journal of the human rights movement in the Soviet Union.

The seven issues are published in three separate volumes: issues 34-36 cover the period from 10 December 1974 to 31 May 1975; issues 37-39 cover 31 May 1975 to 12 March 1976; and issue 46 covers 25 May 1977 to 15 August 1977. The three volumes total over 500 pages and are supplied with a comprehensive name index and illustrations.

AI said that it would publish issues 40-45 and issue 47 (the latest to arrive outside the USSR) before the end of the year, thus bringing up to date its schedule for publishing the *Chronicle* in English.

The *Chronicle* reached its 10th anniversary on 30 April this year. When its first issue appeared in April 1968, after the trial of four "dissenters" including Alexander GINZBURG, its anonymous editors stated that their intention was to publicize cases of violations of Soviet citizens' fundamental human rights. Since then, every issue has carried on its title page the text of article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which proclaims that "everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression". In the past decade dozens of Soviet citizens have themselves been imprisoned for helping to produce or distribute the *Chronicle* or for possessing it.

Issues 34-36 (price £4.95; US \$10), 37-39 (£4.95; \$10) and (£1.65; \$3.45) in English may now be obtained from the distributor, Routledge Journals, Broadway House, Newton Road, Henley on Thames, Oxon RG9 1EN, England, or Routledge Journals, 9 Park Street, Boston, Mass 02108, USA.

Subsequent issues in English will also be available on subscription from the distributor, Routledge Journals, as they are published.

SWAPO DETAINEES IN TANZANIA FREED

On 25 May, President NYERERE of Tanzania ordered the release of 20 members of various southern African national liberation movements who had been detained in Tanzania at the request of their respective movements.

They included Andreas SHIPANGA, former South West African People's Organization (SWAPO) information secretary, Solomon MIFIMA, former SWAPO labour secretary, Andreas NUUKWAWO, a SWAPO Youth League activist who had earlier been detained and flogged in Namibia, and eight other prominent SWAPO members who had been detained in Zambia in April 1976 and transferred to detention in Tanzania three months later. Others released were members of the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC), African National Congress (ANC), SWAPO and the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU), who had been held for periods of between two and seven years. They were all allowed to proceed to countries of their choice. Three others remain in detention.

After the detainees were released, *AI* cabled President Nyerere welcoming these and other recent human rights improvements in Tanzania.

AI also cabled Prime Minister VORSTER of South Africa, reminding him of his undertaking, made after talks in Vienna with United States Vice-President MONDALE in May 1977, that South Africa would seriously consider releasing Namibian political prisoners if SWAPO detainees in Tanzania were freed. *AI* called on Mr Vorster to release all Namibian political prisoners at Robben Island maximum security prison in South Africa, and in Namibia itself.

APPEAL FOR AN AMNESTY IN ISRAEL

In May, *AI* groups took part in an amnesty appeal for all administrative detainees in Israel and the Occupied Territories. The appeal, which coincided with the 30th anniversaries of both the state of Israel and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, drew attention to the fact that, in accordance with article 111 of the Defence (Emergency) Regulations of 1945, any person may be arrested and detained for what could be an indefinite period without being charged or brought before a court of law.

WAVE OF ARRESTS IN NAMIBIA

New emergency regulations were introduced in Namibia on 18 April by South Africa's Administrator-General, Judge Marthinus STEYN. Within days, South African security police detained at least 11 supporters of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), the main nationalist movement in Namibia, under the new powers. Those arrested included prominent members of the organization, Skinny HILUNDWA, Festus NAHOLO and Jason ANGULA.

Under the new provisions, Judge Steyn may order the arrest and detention without trial of any person. The Administrator-General has sole discretion to decide where a detainee is held and under what conditions, though each detainee should be visited by a magistrate once every two weeks. A review committee set up to examine the grounds for detention will meet *in camera* before making recommendations to Judge Steyn. He is in no way bound to follow such recommendations.

AI cabled Administrator-General Steyn on 28 April, expressing concern about the introduction of these powers and calling on him to publish immediately a full list of those detained and to permit access to families and lawyers. *AI* added that those detained under either the new regulations or section 6 of the Terrorism Act should be charged or released immediately if South Africa's commitment to reconciliation in Namibia was to be taken seriously by the international community.

On 3 May, Judge Steyn informed *AI* that his assumption of emergency powers was necessitated by a "grave threat to the peaceful political process" which could not be countered by "normal legal procedures". He claimed that reconciliation and peaceful attainment of independence in Namibia was impossible under "continued hammer blows of terror" and added that "misguided persons wielding the hammer must consequently be restrained in the public interest".

AI reiterated its strong objections to the measures introduced and commented that, with so many South African security laws still applicable in Namibia, it was difficult to see how "normal legal procedures" could be inadequate.

AI said that the new emergency powers would be seen internationally as an attempt by Judge Steyn's administration to undermine and discredit SWAPO by holding SWAPO leaders entirely responsible for recent political violence in Namibia while, at the same time, denying them an opportunity to refute such allegations.

ARRESTS IN GHANA

On 13 April, *AI* expressed concern at reports that up to 50 arrests had taken place in Ghana following the referendum on the country's future form of government.

After the 30 March referendum, the government claimed victory for the supporters of the proposed "Union Government": continued military participation in a non-party government when the present military regime, which seized power in the January 1972 coup, stands down in July 1979.

The temporary disappearance of the electoral commissioner, Justice Isaac ABBAN, during the voting, and the alleged intimidation of opponents to the proposed "Union Government" has led to speculation about the validity of the result.

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Arrests in Ghana

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Among those reportedly arrested on or about 5 April were members and leaders of three movements, opposed to "Union Government," which were banned on 4 April: The People's Movement for Freedom and Justice, The Front for the Prevention of Dictatorship, and the Third Force. People arrested include William Ofori ATTA, Minister of Education in Ghana's last civilian government; Victor OWUSU, Minister of Foreign Affairs in the same government; Komla GBEDEMAH, Minister of Finance in the government of Dr Kwame NKRUMAH, and his wife; J.E. JANTUAH, Minister of Agriculture under Dr Nkrumah; and Dr John BILSON, leader of the Third Force.

On 14 April the Ghanaian government admitted having ordered the arrest of 17 leading civilian politicians, including those named by *AI*. Total numbers of arrested persons are unknown, but *AI* has received a list of 20 names and unconfirmed reports speak of 50 arrests in the city of Kumasi. Subsequent reports have indicated that as many as 300 people may have been arrested.

AI said that the arrests constituted an important breach of human rights and called on the Ghanaian authorities to release several hundred people reportedly detained without trial under the Preventive Custody decree, introduced by the military government. *AI* also urged the release of three *AI* adoptees jailed for sedition in November 1975 after producing a pamphlet critical of the government's economic policies.

URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT URGED TO PUBLICIZE NAMES OF IMPRISONED FORMER REFUGEES

On 18 April *AI* cabled President Aparicio MENDEZ of Uruguay welcoming the release on 10 April of Ana Ines QUADROS Herrera, daughter of a former Uruguayan ambassador to the United Kingdom. She was a refugee in Argentina until her arrest. *AI* requested that eight other former refugees in a similar situation have their cases reviewed.

At the same time, *AI* urged the Uruguayan government to make public the names and legal position of 48 other former refugees in Argentina whose arrest in Uruguay was announced by the armed forces in October 1976, but whose names have never been released by the authorities.

In view of the numerous abductions, disappearances, and assassinations of Uruguayan refugees in Argentina, the refusal to name such former refugees causes "unspeakable anguish and uncertainty" to their families and is a "flagrant breach of the rule of law", *AI* said.

Among such prisoners is Margarita MICHELINI, daughter of the former Uruguayan senator, Zelmur Michelini, who was himself a victim of political assassination in May 1976, while in exile in Argentina.

The prisoners were all announced to have been arrested on Uruguayan territory but according to Señor Enrique RODRIGUEZ Larreta, a Uruguayan journalist who was released in December 1976 after 5 months imprisonment, the prisoners were all abducted in mid-1976 by joint Argentinian and Uruguayan security forces in Buenos Aires and taken back by plane to Uruguay where an arrest was staged.

DEATH PENALTY ACTION

On 24-25 June, representatives from several *AI* national sections met with members of the International Secretariat in London to elaborate proposals for *AI*'s program for achieving the abolition of the death penalty.

The meeting received papers and reports from the Dutch, German, Swedish, French, U.S. and Sri Lankan sections and considered the recommendations from the 1977 Stockholm conference (January *Newsletter*). There was considerable discussion of techniques (including possibilities for action in individual cases), priorities, membership education, future publications and possible target countries.

Also discussed was the 6th United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, to be held in Australia in 1980, where capital punishment will be a specific item on the agenda.

The proposals from the meeting will be considered by *AI*'s International Executive Committee in August.

EIGHT SENTENCED TO DEATH IN LAOS

On 4 May *AI* cabled President SOUPHANOUVONG of the People's Democratic Republic of Laos, urging him to commute on humanitarian grounds the death sentences passed on eight Laotians.

The eight were among 49 people accused of being involved in an attempt to overthrow the government and tried in April by a people's court in the capital, Vientiane. The official newspaper *Sieng Prasasone* announced on 2 May that the 49 had been arrested in November 1977 and convicted of being "traitors" and "intending to destroy the people's administration".

Five of the eight sentenced to death were tried *in absentia*. The three others who were present at the trial, included Khambou SIHALATH, identified as the alleged leader of the coup attempt.

The other 41 were sentenced to terms ranging from five years to life imprisonment.

EXECUTIONS IN SYRIA

AI has written to Syrian Minister of Justice Adib NAHAWI expressing concern at the reported executions by public hanging in the capital, Damascus, on 23 May of two convicted murderers, Rashid WAKKAS and Faisal JARAMANY. *AI* has asked to be informed of the trial procedure.

LETTER FROM DEATH ROW

AI has received a letter from Johnny HARRIS, who is under sentence of death for murder in Alabama, United States of America. Mr Harris was the subject of two Urgent Actions in January and February. (April *Newsletter*). Legal procedures continue to be employed by his lawyers in an effort to have the death sentence rescinded.

Johnny Harris writes: "... These past couple of months have been filled with tension and hope for me and it is a great feeling to know that so many people care and are giving their total and unselfish support. . ."

"I would be very grateful if you could inform your members of my gratitude for their support and my prayers that they will continue to give it. There are so many doing so much for me that I will never be able to repay them. . ."

Brian WROBEL, the organizer of the Stockholm Conference on the Abolition of the Death Penalty, visited Mr Harris in Alabama in March. Mr Wrobel was also given an opportunity to explain *AI*'s position on the death penalty to the legal advisor of Alabama governor George Wallace.

AI remains concerned for all persons on Death Row in the USA.

DEATH SENTENCE IN ALGERIA

On 12 May, *AI* wrote to Algerian President Houari BOUMEDIENNE and to Minister of Justice Abdul Malik BEN HABILIS expressing concern at the death sentence passed on Juan Antonio Alfonso GONZALEZ by the State Security Court on 7 May. Gonzalez had been found guilty of the attempted assassination of Antonio CUBILLO, leader of MPAIAC (Movement for the Autonomy and Independence of the Canary Archipelago).

In the letter *AI* stated that it "in no way condones acts of violence. . . but respectfully requests that the sentence of death imposed on Mr Gonzalez be commuted on humanitarian grounds".

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Psychiatric Abuse in Romania

AI has evidence of 30 cases of people confined in psychiatric hospitals for political reasons in Romania. The two laws used to confine them allow very broad interpretation. Article 114 of the penal code allows the courts to order compulsory confinement to a psychiatric hospital for "mentally ill perpetrators of crimes who are a danger to society". Decree 12/1965, entitled "On Medical Treatment of Dangerous Mentally Ill Persons", states that persons who commit offences that disrupt "normal working conditions" can be interned for psychiatric treatment without trial.

The history of Decree 12/1965 and its use show an evolution of the political abuse of psychiatry in Romania. The decree was issued in 1965, apparently to deal with critics of the government's 1962 decision to seek greater national industrial autonomy. This policy required the movement of workers from rural to industrial areas: "forced industrialization" in the view of the policy's critics. Some critics were particularly concerned that former political prisoners, who had been released between 1962 and 1964, were being arbitrarily forced to move to remote industrial centers.

Allegations of abuse of Decree 12/1965 have been made since 1966; *AI* has recently received information and cases dating back to 1969. Since 1973, Romanian dissenters have publicly alleged that forced psychiatric treatment has been used to punish political and religious dissenters. This seems to indicate a more general application of this method of detention.

The recent history of *AI*-adopted prisoners of conscience in Romania shows that psychiatric internment, under both the penal code and Decree 12/1965, is used against a wide range of ethnic and religious groups.

Erhard MAYER-BUCHLER, a young dentist, is a member of the 400,000-strong German minority. In the early 1970s, he first applied for permission to emigrate to the Federal Republic of Germany, where he has relatives. Arrested for the third time in October 1976, he was tried and confined indefinitely to the Dr Petru Groza Psychiatric Hospital under article 114 of the penal code.

Janos TOROK, one of the 2.5 million Hungarian minority, was arrested in March 1975 when he attempted to address his fellow factory workers on the failure of the electoral system to secure the rights of workers and those of national minorities (May *CAT Bulletin*). Mr Torok is confined under Decree 12/1965, also at the Dr Petru Groza hospital.

Dumitru BLIDARU, a member of the country's neo-Protestant religious community, was confined to a psychiatric hospital

after writing to President Nicolae CEAUSESCU concerning the alleged persecution of his fellow believers. Dr Calin APOSTELESU, a professor of mathematics, is similarly confined after having publicly charged that the authorities discriminate against professionals and intellectuals who are not members of the Communist Party.

A number of medical doctors and other medical personnel are said to take part regularly in administering drug treatment to dissidents. Powerful sedative drugs—plegomazin, amital, mezoptil, and haloperidol—are reportedly used in large quantities, often as a matter of routine, against prisoners of conscience and other inmates. Former prisoners of conscience from mental institutions allege that punishments also include beatings and low food rations. Some inmates who attempt to escape or smuggle letters out of the hospitals are allegedly injected with a mixture of iodine and milk. This is said to cause intense pain, high fever, low blood pressure and feelings of anxiety.

To *AI*'s knowledge, at least 12 psychiatric hospitals (both civil and prison) keep political and religious dissenters imprisoned. Civil hospitals where such persons are kept include Poiana Mare, Dr Petru Groza and Balaceanca; in addition, the prison hospitals of Jilava and Sighetu Marmatiei are used for these purposes.

HUNGER STRIKE BY RELATIVES OF DISAPPEARED PERSONS IN CHILE

On 22 May, 70 relatives of disappeared prisoners declared an indefinite hunger strike in Santiago, Chile. They are asking the authorities to comply with promises to reply to inquiries about the fate and whereabouts of their missing relatives. The hunger strikers occupied four buildings in Santiago: the headquarters of UNICEF and the churches of La Estampa, Jesús Obrero and San Juan Bosco.

AI estimates that over 1,500 people have disappeared following detention in Chile since the coup of September 1973. The government has never given an adequate explanation of their fate or whereabouts.

In June 1977, 26 people, all relatives of disappeared prisoners, staged a hunger strike in the offices of the Economic Commission for Latin America in Santiago. After the intervention of UN Secretary General Kurt WALDHEIM, the Chilean government gave assurances that a reply would be given on those cases. In September 1977, a reply was given to Secretary General Waldheim, who stated that it was inadequate, as it merely repeated what was already known about the disappeared prisoners.

Since that hunger strike, families of the disappeared have been subject to harassment. Three women relatives of disappeared prisoners were expelled from Chile in November 1977 because they had made a trip to the United States and Europe to publicize the situation.

On 19 April, an amnesty was declared in Chile, which, while making the release of many political prisoners possible, also amnestied officials who had committed a wide variety of crimes since the coup. Some security agents who had kidnapped people under the state of siege were thus amnestied and, as a result, some courts have closed the investigation of cases concerning disappearances where the kidnappings were apparently carried out by government security forces.

Since 22 May, many more people have joined the hunger strike. Two weeks after it began, there were more than 200 people reported to be on hunger strike in Chile, including all the remaining political prisoners in the Santiago Penitentiary. Hunger strikes by relatives of the disappeared prisoners had also begun in the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, France, Holland, Sweden, Germany, Italy, Costa Rica, Mexico, Spain, Colombia, and other countries.

• As a result of international pressure, the Chilean government has apparently given an assurance to the hunger strikers of its wish to clarify the situation of all the disappeared prisoners, and to provide a legal solution to the problems caused by their disappearance. On 9 June, the hunger strikers decided to suspend the hunger strike for a month, so that the government could give a reply concerning the fate and whereabouts of the disappeared prisoners. If no reply is given, or if the reply given is unsatisfactory, then the hunger strike will be resumed on 9 July.

JOURNALISTS BEATEN AND ARRESTED IN BANGLADESH

A procession of Bangladesh journalists was reportedly attacked by police on 16 May during a reportedly peaceful demonstration in Dacca for the restoration of press freedoms.

According to Bangladesh newspapers, 22 journalists were injured and 23 arrested, including some of the injured. Four were taken to Dacca Medical College Hospital for treatment. Sanjay BARUA, an executive committee member of the Dacca Union of Journalists, is reported to have suffered fractures to the right leg due to police beating. Some journalists were said to have been beaten after detention.

On 30 May, *AI* wrote to Shamshul Huda CHOWDHURY, Presidential Adviser in charge of Information and Broadcasting, to inquire about the arrests and ill-treatment of the journalists and to seek assurance that no arrests of a similar nature would take place in the future.

There have been unconfirmed reports that all the arrested journalists have been released in response to protests by local colleagues.

NEW EVIDENCE ON DEATH IN ARGENTINIAN PRISON

On 26 January 1977, Angel Alberto GEORGIADIS OTERO was removed in an ambulance from La Plata Prison, Province of Buenos Aires, and was never seen alive again. *AI* has recently received the testimony of his wife, María Teresa PIÑERO DE GEORGIADIS, who is now in exile, revealing new evidence contradicting official reports of "suicide".

On 4 February 1977, Mrs Georgiadis received an official telegram from Buenos Aires Province Police Department: "Your husband Angel Alberto Georgiadis Otero was removed from Unit 9 by military personnel on 1 February 1977 for interrogation under military jurisdiction, Operations Area 113, and inflicted on himself injuries which caused his death".

The official death certificate states that death was due to "acute anaemia and external haemorrhage". In a copy of the burial certificate filed at a police station, however, the reason stated was "acute anaemia and internal haemorrhage". Although an autopsy would have revealed the real cause of death, the authorities refused to permit such an autopsy.

Mrs Georgiadis had tried to locate her husband before his death but had been warned by a judge that she should leave everything "in the hands of the law". Otherwise, she was told, she too might disappear.

After her husband's death, she tried unsuccessfully to obtain an autopsy, an investigation, or permission to identify the body. All requests were denied and finally, fearing for her own life, she left the country.

Angel Georgiadis' death was not the first among the La Plata prisoners. In early 1977,

AI received reliable information on the deaths of Dardo CABO and Rufino URIZ, who had been removed from La Plata Prison on 4 January 1977 and were found dead a few days later. Georgiadis and other prisoners had denounced the killings and were reportedly threatened with death by prison officials. A month later Angel Georgiadis was dead.

THUMBSCREW EXPORTS IN DECLINE

In May a United States Congressional Committee attached an amendment to a US foreign assistance bill to forbid the export of thumbscrews, leg irons, shackles, electric shock batons (September 1974 *CAT Bulletin*), dart guns, psychological stress analysis instruments and other so-called "crime-control equipment" to the security forces of "governments engaged in gross violations of human rights".

Congressman Donald FRASER, who introduced the amendment, said: "I find it incredible that these torture instruments from the Dark Ages are still being manufactured—let alone exported abroad". No list of importers was provided, but one wonders who else, by definition, but a "government engaged in gross violations of human rights" could possibly be among the customers.

appeals

Emmanuel DJOUMBI—Cameroun

Emmanuel DJOUMBI was arrested in July 1976 while working as a doctor at Laquintinie Hospital in Douala, Cameroun, and has been detained without charge or trial since then at Tcholliré camp in Northern Cameroun. He is believed to have been arrested because of his association with the banned opposition UPC (*Union des Populations du Cameroun*) and for complicity in the distribution of anti-government leaflets in 1976.

Conditions at Tcholliré are reportedly extremely harsh. According to the latest information available, Dr Djoumbi has been tortured during interrogation there. He is known to suffer from a serious liver infection which has been aggravated by his long period of detention and the severe conditions prevailing at Tcholliré.

Please write courteously worded appeals to the Cameroun government, requesting that Dr Djoumbi be released or transferred to a hospital where he can be given adequate medical attention, to: H.E. Charles DOUMBA, Minister of Justice, Yaoundé, United Republic of Cameroun, and to: H.E. Victor AYISSI MVODO, Minister of Territorial Administration, Yaoundé, United Republic of Cameroun. Letters should preferably be written in French, otherwise in English.

ASSESSMENT OF URGENT ACTIONS

One of the primary tasks undertaken by *AI's Campaign for the Abolition of Torture* is to ensure rapid international intervention in cases of individuals known by name who are under threat of torture, death or other serious violations of fundamental human rights. Although it is difficult to obtain detailed information about the results of intervention in every case, a study of information available on cases taken up during 1976 showed improvements in the majority of cases.

A new evaluation has now been carried out on the basis of further information available on all cases taken up during 1977. Such information was available on 73% of the cases, showing positive developments in more than half of them: torture had stopped, the prisoner had been released or officially recognized as being in detention, visits by family or lawyers had been permitted or medical treatment had been provided.

The assessment covered the 215 urgent actions issued during 1977, which concerned the cases of nearly 400 people. The majority of the 215 actions concerned individuals believed to be in danger of torture or who had disappeared after arrest. Other actions concerned prisoners in very bad health, under sentence of death or in other imminent danger where fundamental human rights are at risk.

During 1977, *AI* launched urgent actions on behalf of individuals in Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bermuda, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroun, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo-Brazzaville, Czechoslovakia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, GDR, Guatemala, Haiti, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Republic of Korea, Libya, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Romania, South Africa, Syria, Taiwan, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Uruguay, USA, USSR.

Prisoner Releases and Cases

The International Secretariat learned in May of the release of 220 prisoners under adoption or investigation and took up 323 new cases.